COVID-19 AND MONSOON PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES
WEEKLY UPDATE #25 | 21 to 27 August 2020
Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

HIGHLIGHTS

“The place ensures separate rooms for men and women which feels more secured than the other centres / places which could not provide.”

– Dola Begum, a Rohingya refugee woman who was temporarily relocated to a multi-purpose women’s centre due to monsoon-related damages to her shelter. Heavy monsoon rainfall in Cox’s Bazar during the week caused slope failures that severely damaged the shelters of 28 Rohingya families including 126 Rohingya women, children, and men, including Dola. The families were temporarily relocated and sheltered by Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group members UN Women and Action Aid Bangladesh, in coordination with Site Management teams, for two days at a multi-purpose women’s centre in the camp. The refugees were provided with food, non-food items, gender-segregated sleeping arrangements, as well as support with shelter repair. Two female volunteers provided continuous support in coordination with Camp-in-Charge (CiC) Gender Officers to address the needs of women and girls.

Key COVID-19 figures this week¹

| 101 | confirmed COVID-19 cases in the refugee camps, and 3,965 cases in the host community |
| 8   | Rohingya refugees in quarantine who were in contact with a COVID-19 suspected or confirmed case, and 998 host community members |
| 19  | camp entry points in Ukhiya and Teknaf have hand washing and temperature screening stations operational 7 days per week |
| 6   | Rohingya refugee fatalities due to COVID-19, and 63 fatalities of host community members |
| 37  | Rohingya refugees in isolation who are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 533 host community members |
| 1,676,200 | reusable cloth masks had been distributed to 838,100 Rohingya refugees and host community members as of 27 August |

Monsoon-related Incidents² reported this week

| 10,748 | Rohingya refugees affected³ |
| 0     | Rohingya refugee fatalities due to drowning⁴ |
| 0     | Rohingya refugees injured |
| 257   | Rohingya refugees displaced |
| 515   | Rohingya refugees affected by 82 slope failures |
| 10,172| Rohingya refugees affected by 68 events of wind/storms/rain |
| 61    | Rohingya refugees affected by 4 floods |
| 0     | Rohingya refugees affected by lightning |

¹ COVID-19 data on Cox’s Bazar District is sourced from WHO daily update. Please note that confirmed COVID-19 cases and number of fatalities are cumulative.

² All numbers are indicative only, as reported to SMoD Sector following rapid assessments carried out on the day of the incident. The numbers are not verified.

³ Households and/or individuals directly affected by a specific incident, including people injured, relocated, displaced and with damaged shelters. These estimates do not include people who are indirectly affected ex. by not being able to access affected facilities.

⁴ SMoD Sector cannot confirm that drownings resulted from the monsoon, however, the data captures all incidents (windstorm, slope failure, lightning, flood and drowning) reported in the camps during the monsoon season.
COVID-19

HEALTH
As of 27 August, 13 Severe Acute Respiratory Illness Isolation and Treatment Centres (SARI ITCs) with a capacity of 510 beds were active and receiving patients. Health Sector, with the support of WHO, has since July trained 125 humanitarian and healthcare workers on case management and infection prevention and control (IPC) on-site in five upazilas. COVID-19 testing of refugees continued to increase: 1,127 refugees were tested, compared to 878 in the previous week. In host communities, testing decreased with 356 tests conducted, compared to 490 in the previous week, which may be due to testing fees introduced by the Government in July. Hand washing and temperature screening stations were operational seven days per week/eight hours per day at 18 camp entry points in Ukhiya and Teknaf, at which 281,000 individuals have been screened to date.

WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE (WASH)
WASH Sector partners reached 302,585 individuals through a neighbourhood-based approach and 107,093 individuals through mass media with COVID-19 awareness messages in host and Rohingya communities. In the camps, WASH Sector partners provided soap to 19,096 households and family hygiene kits to 36,578 households, and installed a total of 3,311 hand-washing stations (HWS), including 225 HWS with stools and buckets at household-level, 926 HWS in public spaces, and 2,160 tippy taps in public places and near toilet facilities. As part of COVID-19 risk prevention measures and IPC compliance in the host communities and camps, WASH Sector partners disinfected 58,866 WASH facilities and 3,251 public buildings.

COMMUNICATION with COMMUNITIES (CwC WG)
CwC WG partners organized 11 cascade training sessions on COVID-19 with 90 staff and volunteers. CwC WG partners reached 236,198 people in the camps and host communities with key COVID-19 messages through community engagement activities, including 41,315 neighbourhood-based sessions; 11,887 community consultation meetings; 581 listening group sessions; 420 video/film viewings; and 9,891 sessions led by religious leaders. CwC WG partners organised COVID-19 awareness announcements via loudspeakers/megaphones in 19 camps. For receiving community feedback/complaints, 83 information service centres in the camps and 4 information service centres in the host community were operational. 7 new audio messages on COVID-19 were developed by CwC WG partners.

FOOD SECURITY (FSS)
FSS published a story map to mark three years of the Rohingya refugee response and highlight FSS interventions, including activities in the COVID-19 pandemic. Key findings from the COVID-19 Joint Monitoring Framework pilot in Cox’s Bazar were presented to the global FS Cluster COVID-19 Technical Working Group. The Livelihoods Working Group held an operational coordination meeting with partners to review planned and ongoing seed distribution in the camps, which resumed in August. 800 CwC volunteers were trained to disseminate key messages at the household-level in all 34 camps, beginning in September. Approximately 838,100 individuals, including 486,600 in the refugee camps and 351,500 in the host communities, have received a total of 1,676,200 reusable cloth masks, as of 27 August.

SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)
Shelter/NFI Sector partners distributed NFI packages (including blankets, floor mats, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, rope and solar lamps) to 197 households with older persons who were newly identified after completion of the distribution exercise last week. During the week, 150 NFI kits were provided to quarantine centres, including 30 NFI kits in

5 Upazilas are administrative units in Bangladesh. Districts are divided into Upazilas (or sub-Districts).
Nayapara and 120 in Camp 20 Extension.

PROTECTION, including Child Protection (CPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV SS)

Protection Sector partners including Protection Focal Points (PFP) and Protection Emergency Response Units (PERU) reached 11,779 refugees with COVID-19 messaging. Rohingya Community Outreach Members conducted 423 household visits and 111 monitoring assessments for 1,837 refugees, and conducted 878 COVID-19 awareness sessions, reaching 3,383 refugees including 531 older persons and 48 persons with disabilities. UNHCR Registration Team facilitated an information session for PFPs on the re-opening of the camp registration sites. PFPs will cascade the information to camp authorities and partners. To promote inclusive planning and equal access to services, the Age and Disability Working Group, together with CPSS, provided a session on disability and child protection programming during the COVID-19 pandemic to partners. CPSS also trained CP Focal Points and Case Managers on 21 key child protection messages for children and caregivers. GBVSS partners reached 1,635 refugees with audio messages on prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and conducted a PSEA online session for 79 humanitarian workers.

SITE MANAGEMENT and SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

SMSD Sector partners screened over 7,380 individuals at 10 camp entry points, where camp visitors’ temperatures were checked and they were requested to wash their hands; and conducted COVID-19 awareness sessions on physical distancing and hygiene, reaching 25,920 refugees including 13,712 women. Orientation sessions for safe and dignified burials continued this week in the camps, reaching 123 community leaders including 20 women. Partners continued to work closely with Rohingya burial committees to strengthen burial tracking and registrations. SMSD actors together with Health teams, and the Camp-in-Charge of Camp 22, identified a site and finalized protocols for a central triage point to prevent overcrowding of patients in front of health facilities.

NUTRITION

Nutrition Sector partners trained 5,718 Rohingya and Bangladeshi mothers on measuring Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) and referring children to the nearest integrated nutrition facilities. In the host community, Nutrition Sector partners also reached 8,540 caregivers with COVID-19 awareness messages and counselled 1,612 mothers and caregivers on infant and young child feeding practices in emergencies, particularly in the COVID-19 context. Nutrition Sector identified 49 suspected COVID-19 cases at nutrition facilities in the camps and referred them to health facilities.

EDUCATION

During the week, 295 Burmese Language Instructors (BLIs) disseminated COVID-19 awareness messaging through audio clips to 13,336 Rohingya parents, community members and caregivers and distributed COVID-19 awareness leaflets to 10,021 Rohingya parents and community members. Simultaneously, 148 female BLIs distributed dignity kits (for menstrual hygiene management) to 4,315 Rohingya girls. 548 BLIs provided remote guidance on COVID-19 prevention, wellbeing and self-care to 26,906 Rohingya children, youth and adolescents. An additional 929 BLIs provided at-home educational support, explaining learning materials and activities to 74,401 learners. Meanwhile, educational facilitators shared COVID-19 awareness messages and caregiver-led education instruction to 13,815 parents, caregivers and community members and trained 55,184 community volunteers, youth and adolescent volunteers on Education in Emergencies and child, adolescent, and youth-friendly awareness messages. In the host communities, 95 volunteers distributed 1,123 COVID-19 awareness leaflets; 94 teachers disseminated educational instruction and COVID-19 awareness messages to 1,369 parents, learners and community members.

LOGISTICS

Logistics Sector received and approved a request from WHO for use of temperature-controlled storage in the COVID-19 Hub. Logistics Sector serviced and maintained generators that were loaned to the SARI ITCs, including changing parts such as fuel and air filters. Logistics Sector, with the support of a WFP electrician, trained partners on how to...
properly maintain generators with a focus on changing the oil and filter, checking the machine regularly, and record-keeping. Logistics Sector loaned pallets to MSF for transport and storage purposes in the COVID-19 response.

**GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION (GiHA WG) and GENDER HUB**

Camp-level gender focal points supported Health partners to monitor their gender action plans, which include assessments of SARI ITCs. A session on gender-responsive community engagement was held with CwC partners. GiHA WG members raised concerns that girls may not go to learning centres once education activities resume in the camps due to increased domestic responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS), a local women’s rights organisation, organised consultations with local women’s groups in the host communities to discuss how to promote social cohesion, address GBV, and how to strengthen women’s participation in the humanitarian response, including in the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MONSOON**

**Cumulative incidents reported in Camps since 14 June 2020 (SMSD Sector)**

**CUMULATIVE CASUALTIES:** Since 14 June, 5 fatalities have been reported in the camps as a result of monsoon-related events. Some 17 refugees have been injured. The peak was recorded on 18 June, when over 13,900 refugees were affected by wind and slope-failure on one day.

**Cumulative precipitation compared to number and type of incidents reported by rain gauge (Geological Survey of Bangladesh/UNDP)**

Please note the pre-determined risk thresholds are - 3 hours: 75 mm; 24 hours: 200 mm; 72 hours: 350 mm. The slope failure risk is significant when those thresholds are reached with the given time period. Peak rainfall of 282.95 mm was recorded on 18 June. During this week, there was widespread and intense showers and thunderstorms with rainfall peaking on 26 August.
**WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE (WASH)**

Monsoon rains affected 109 toilets, 44 bathing cubicles, and 12 tube wells in different camps in Ukhiya, and impacted 9 toilets, 7 bathing cubicles, 1 tap-stand, and 2 waste pits in camps in Teknaf. WASH Sector partners started repairing the damaged toilets and bathing cubicles in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

**COMMUNICATION with COMMUNITIES (CwC WG)**

CwC WG partners engaged with Rohingya and host communities to raise awareness on the risks of heavy monsoon rains and reached 18,330 individuals through different community engagement activities, including 129 community awareness sessions, 3,195 neighbourhood-based sessions, 76 radio listeners’ group sessions, and 87 video/film shows. Additionally, 87 information service centres were operational, with staff disseminating monsoon-related information and receiving feedback and complaints from both communities.

**FOOD SECURITY (FSS)**

FSS partners provided rapid food assistance response to households displaced by floods and landslides in the camps, including high energy biscuits to 26 households (112 individuals), one-off general food rations to 12 households (55 individuals), and 14 cooked meals to 2 households (7 individuals) in three camps.

**SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)**

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<th>511</th>
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<td>Rohingya refugee households were partially moderately damaged</td>
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Shelter/NFI Sector partners continued providing emergency support to vulnerable Rohingya refugee households affected by monsoon rains. Shelter/NFI Sector partners verified shelter damage for 1,327 households and provided them with emergency shelter assistance; 3 households were referred for relocation and will be assisted in their new locations; and 27 households with older persons without caretakers were provided with home deliveries of emergency shelter materials and received support to repair their shelters.

**PROTECTION, including Child Protection (CPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV SS)**

Protection actors, Protection focal points and PERUs referred 257 cases from the refugee community to Health, SMSD, Shelter, WASH and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support partners to address needs arising from the monsoon rains. CPSS developed community action plans to support child protection mechanisms in the monsoon period. Emergency Child and Caregiver Information Points were established across the camps to facilitate tracing of children and caregivers, in the event of separation during a weather-related event. Trained CP Mobile Teams, in cooperation with PERU and CP Focal Points, were operational in the camps to support the dissemination of key child protection messages, to strengthen the protection of children in case of a natural disaster. Heavy monsoon rains, which resulted in water logging on pathways, have affected access to several Women and Girls’ Safe Spaces/Women Friendly Spaces/Multi-purpose Women Centres, as well as the provision of specialized services to women and girls and GBV survivors.

**SITE MANAGEMENT and SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)**

SMSD Sector partners continued monsoon repairs and maintenance works across the camps, including engaging women’s groups in small-scale mitigation works including sand bagging efforts and block-level clean-up campaigns. To prevent drownings, SMSD volunteers conducted 184 community sensitization sessions on water safety and on keeping children away from ponds in Camp 12, reaching 1,366 refugees including 415 females. SMSD Sector partners built a fence around 17 ponds in Camp 24 that had been identified as risks for children.
EDUCATION

Heavy monsoon rainfall affected 272 learning centres this week. Education Sector partners completed repairs on 50 learning centres and started repairs on 143 learning centres affected by the rains.

GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION (GiHA WG) and GENDER HUB

GiC Gender Officers and camp-level gender focal points coordinated with SMoD partners to ensure women and their families received information on monsoon preparedness and response, and the possibility of using women safe spaces as temporary emergency shelters.

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